

December 26, 1950.

Mr. Robert Paul Levine,
Division of Botany,
University of California,
Los Angeles 24, California.

Dear Paul-

Just received: your excellent account of yourself. Unfortunately, I can't think of anything offhand, but will make some discreet inquiries. Elsewhere, the only possibility that comes to mind is the chance that there might be a vacancy at Missouri, vice Green and Griffen. Whether you'd be interested, after Mel's experience, is another question.

Here is a long shot, however. Do you think there is any way that I could interest you in our bugs? There is no chance of a permanent position, but it ought to be possible to dig up possibly around 3600-4000 for a research associate, and it would be an opportunity to learn something new. In fact, I have a problem that fits your stated interest "physiological genetics, particularly as applied to natural populations" very well. I have lately been picking up a considerable number of new isolates of *E. coli* which cross with *E. coli* K-12 and with each other. These differ from each other quite considerably, in some cases enough to transcend the traditional taxonomic species. But the latter do mean something, and I think that it might be very useful for someone trained in modern taxonomy and genetics to look into this group.

Will you let me know whether your adventurous spirit is likely to make you interested in this bastard field. I'll certainly write you if any other likely opportunity turns up.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics.

P.S. Best regards to Carl and to Mrs. Levine.